

PSYC 281. Abnormal Psychology

Credit Hours: 3

Scheduled hours per week

Lecture: 3 Lab: N/A Other: N/A

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to behavior disorders: etiology, prevention and treatment. Focus on major functional and organic disorders, theories related to mental disorders and methods of therapy.

Pre-requisites: PSYC 101 or PSYC 241

Co-requisites: N/A

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of Psychology 281 students should be able to:

- Define abnormality using a variety of definitional standards, including historical perspective.
- Understand the scientific basis for psychological abnormality, with emphasis on the major methods of research, and related ethical considerations.
- Interpret the major models of human behavior with emphasis on explaining, understanding, and treating abnormal behavior.
- Develop a working knowledge of the DSM-IV.
- Identify the major psychological disorders with emphasis on etiology and appropriate treatment methods.
- Consider the ethical issues related to the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal behavior.

Topics to be studied:

- Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior
- Methods of Research
- Classification and Assessment of Abnormal Behavior
- Methods of Treatment
- Stress, Psychological Factors, and Health
- Anxiety Disorders
- Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders
- Mood Disorders and Suicide
- Personality Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders
- Substance Abuse and Dependence
- Eating Disorders and Sleep Disorders
- Disorders involving Gender and Sexuality
- Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Abnormal Behavior in Childhood and Adolescence
- Cognitive Disorders and Disorders Related to Aging
- Abnormal Psychology and the Law

Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes	
Compare the various research methods used by psychologists and develop the ability to construct research designs.	X
Trace the history of psychological thought leading to the development of major psychological perspectives and specialties.	X
Compare and apply the various theories of learning, memory, states of consciousness, and intelligence.	X
Identify and explain psychological disorders and associated therapies and treatment.	X
Explore current theories of gender, personality and sexuality, and their relationship to current behavior patterns.	X
Overview major constructs related to stress, motivation, attraction (love), communication, prejudice, and discrimination.	X
Identify differences between environmental, genetic, and epigenetic theories of behavior.	X
Use basic statistics for describing scores, norms for interpreting scores, and psychometric properties of scale, such as reliability and validity.	X
Encourage personal growth and self-awareness.	X
Integration of cross cultural, ethical, and gender issues related to personality development.	X

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:	
Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
Science & Technology Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	X
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	

Special requirements of the course: N/A

Additional information: N/A

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